



News Release

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KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS

In 2010, there were 85,700 farms in Kentucky, up 200 farms from a year ago according to the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Sales also include government payments. Farm numbers include properties with acres enrolled in the Conservation or Wetland Reserve government programs. Research and institutional farms are included in the farm definition. Kentucky was the fifth ranking state in the number of farms. Texas ranked first with 247,500. Missouri was second with 108,000, Iowa was third with 92,400 and Oklahoma was fourth with 86,500. Kentucky farm numbers were further divided into 5 distinct sales categories: 55,500 had sales of \$1,000-\$9,999; 24,000 with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999; 2,800 with sales of \$100,000-\$249,999; 1,500 with sales of \$250,000-\$499,999; and 1,900 with sales of \$500,000 or more. Total land in farms was 14.0 million acres, unchanged from 2009. Farmland represents 55.1 percent of Kentucky's approximately 25.4 million total acres. The number of farms increased, land in farms was unchanged, while average farm size decreased from a year ago.

The number of farms in the United States in 2010 is estimated at 2.20 million, virtually unchanged from 2009. Total land in farms, at 920.0 million acres, increased 100 thousand acres from 2009. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Farm numbers increased slightly in the \$1,000-\$9,999 and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Higher commodity prices and larger value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 0.1 percent, to 1.23 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class increased by 1.6 percent, to 126,720 farms. Land in farms increased in the largest sales class while decreasing in all other sales classes. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over sales class increased 3.0 percent, to 298.9 million acres. Land operated by farms with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales decreased by 0.6 percent, to 105.0 million acres. The average farm size was unchanged in 2010. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 935,000 for 2010, down 1 percent from 2009. Beef cow operations in 2010, at 742,000, were also down 1 percent from last year. The number of milk cow operations for 2010 totaled 62,500, down 4 percent from 2009.

The three operation classes: cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and 1-49 size group for beef cows.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 69,100 for 2010, down 3 percent from 2009. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 86 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 81,000 for 2010, down 1 percent from 2009. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 93.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 5.1 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.1 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 35.8 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 20.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 44.1 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with goats totaled 152,000 for 2010, unchanged from a year earlier. Angora goat operations totaled 6,000, up 9 percent from 2009. Milk goat operations totaled 31,000, up 3 percent from 2009. Meat goat operations totaled 128,000, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat goat operations since places which own more than one goat type count as only one operation.

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